

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, during the vote on H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, I was unavoidably detained—had I been present I would have voted for this legislation.

Americans are struggling to make ends meet in this economy. Retirement savings are disappearing, families have seen their portfolios drop, and according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the unemployment rate in Illinois is at 10 percent—.3 percent higher than the national average has been in 26 years.

I support giving unemployment benefits to people who lost their jobs. In tough economic times, the federal government should offer additional assistance and H.R. 3548 does that by extending unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks for individuals living in States with unemployment rates above 8.5 percent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 709, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING REBECCA PARRIS OF SWAIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca Parris, a remarkable young woman in Swain County, North Carolina.

Miss Parris, a student of Swain County High School, raised over \$4,000 for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, South Carolina. Miss Parris was inspired to take action upon hearing that reductions in donations and increasing medical costs could lead to the possible closure of the Greenville hospital, which serves children in the Greenville and Western North Carolina areas. To help keep the hospital open, Miss Parris coordinated and hosted a fundraising event, "Shriners for Minors," in Bryson City, North Carolina on August 8, 2009. The event included participation by a number of vendors and children's activities organized by her fellow high school students. After the event, Miss Parris made a visit to the hospital to present the donations and over 70 donated toys.

Miss Parris has always worked hard to serve those in her community. As an elementary school student she made Christmas gifts for local nursing home residents. Miss Parris maintains an excellent academic record and has been inducted into the National Honor So-

ciety this year. She is part of the track and cross country team, plays basketball, and is the best marksperson on the shooting team at Swain County High School. She also worked full-time at a grocery store over the summer while organizing the fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, Miss Parris's dedication to children in need in our mountain region and her efforts on behalf of the Shriners Hospital for Children are a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. Miss Parris exemplifies the motto of Swain County Schools: "Our Best and Then Some." I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending the outstanding efforts of this remarkable young woman.

TRIBUTE TO WILL LUMMUS

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a National Little Britches Rodeo Champion, Will Lummus, a fierce competitor in the senior tie-down calf-roping finals. Every year, more than 700 of the National Little Britches Association's top athletes from across the country gather in Pueblo, Colorado to take shots at 30 world championships.

Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I, along with the citizens of West Point, Mississippi congratulate our own national calf-roping champion, Will Lummus. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Will for his hard work and dedication. I hope he will continue to compete and victoriously represent Mississippi's First District.

RECOGNIZING FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL PARRISH—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members who perform diligent service to this country. For the month of August, they have recognized First Lieutenant Michael Parrish.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Parrish joined the Army National Guard in 2001 to further his education and serve his country. After completing basic training, he provided medical coverage for cadets who were training at West Point Military Academy. During his tenure, 100 percent of the cadets finished the training without injury. This September, Parrish will deploy to Vicenza, Italy, to provide care to Army soldiers and families.

In addition to his military work, Michael is an avid supporter of the Scottsdale Healthcare Military Partnership Training Program, which is designed to ensure military medical personnel have the necessary skills and experience to

operate in a wartime setting. Without a doubt, his outstanding leadership and dedication contribute to the success of this very important program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this courageous citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow service men and women in combat.

STATEMENT REGARDING VOTE ON H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COM- PENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2009, I voted "no" on H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009. As of August 2009, the State of Texas had 966,000 people who were unemployed. This amounts an unemployment rate of 8.0 percent but this legislation only applied to states with unemployment over 8.5 percent so unemployed Texans were not eligible. I would have voted for H.R. 3548 because so many people across the country continue to be unemployed if the bill had not discriminated against Texas and 22 other states with unemployment rates lower than 8.5 percent.

The State of Texas has many counties and communities where the unemployment rate is higher than 8.5 percent. Many more individuals should have qualified for these benefits. Furthermore, since employers in Texas continue to pay the taxes that pay for these benefits, they are subsidizing the unemployment benefits in other states without any of the revenue going to unemployed Texans. This bill is unfair and for that reason I could not support it.

STATEMENT REGARDING VOTE ON H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COM- PENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted for the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act (H.R. 3548), legislation that will provide an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits to individuals in states with unemployment above a three-month average of 8.5 percent. Because so many Americans have lost their once steady job and are struggling to find work and make ends meet during these difficult economic times, I feel that extending unemployment benefits is a necessity.

I was disappointed, however, that this legislation only included an extension of benefits for 29 states by setting an 8.5 percent state unemployment rate as the threshold for those eligible under this bill. In Virginia, where unemployment stands at 6.5 percent for the month of August, those out of work who have exhausted their benefits will not be covered.

Families across the country are struggling to pay their mortgage, to pay for health care expenses. They have depleted their savings and